

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, March 1, 1873, with transcript

3rd copy Copy of a letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his father. 35 West Newton Street, Boston, March 1st, 1873. Dear Papa:

Last night I commenced quite a volume to you about Visible Speech Manual Alphabets, Telegraphic Instruments, and various other matters, but could not finish on account of a visit from Mr. Richarde who stayed with me till twelve o'clock when we drank you health in a glass of wine.

This morning Dr. Bigelow called and from what he said, I determined to postpone indefinitely my letter to you and to study up the subject of stenography instead.

Your natal day is certainly a truly auspicious day for Visible Speech. I have this day received no less than three encouraging communications concerning the System. One I enclose. The other is from Henry Barnard Esq., a well-known man in connection with the Deaf and Dumb. He has been writing an article on Visible Speech as applied to the Deaf-Mute — and wrote to me for the loan of the wood cuts that illustrated my article in the Old and New.

The third is this. The Girl's High and Normal School Committee, had a meeting yesterday for the purpose of arranging the studies for the third and fourth year pupils. Certain optional studies are to be presented to them by means of which, if they chose, they could gain a living. Among other subjects stenography was proposed and adopted — the only question being "What system should be taught"? Dr. Bigelow suggested that the discussion of 2 this question should be deferred until the Committee could have an opportunity of investigating your system — which motion was carried.

Library of Congress

I have been hard at work in the Library to-day reading up the Encyclopaedias on the subject, and I have purchased Graham's and Munson's Phonographics — the two systems used in America — both founded on Pitman.

I may be called upon any moment for an explanation of your system — and I should be glad if you can send me down a few suggestions.

Many happy returns of this day. Success to Visible Speech!

Your loving son, Aleck. Prof. A. M. Bell, Brantford, Ontario.